

BY WIRE (BACK CHANNEL VIA CAS)

June 26, 1969

SECRET

EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

The President definitely plans visit to Saigon, departing Bangkok on July 30 and landing Tan Son Nhut approximately 2:30 p. m. that date. Anticipates departure from Tan Son Nhut no later than 6:00 p. m. same day. Plans now provide that party will consist of President, small group of White House and State staff members and selected members of press pool. Agree that helicopter to Palace is best solution followed by private two-hour working session between President and Thieu with concurrent meetings between staff counterparts, and finally combined meeting of entire group for approximately one hour. Remainder of stay would be utilized in accordance with your recommendations and in light of your judgment on local security. Would think it might include desirable high-impact activity such as visit to military hospital, etc. Your views on this outlined plan would be appreciated.

New Subject: Understand you will be discussing Thieu speech with Thieu today and that State guidance for this meeting will be dispatched via NODIS-PARIS-PLUS message tonight, Washington time. You should know that President does not wish you to press Thieu to propose ceasefire prior to elections. Also, the President recognizes desirability of suggesting that Thieu set July 10 as target date for his speech but again desires that you not press Thieu hard on this issue.

State Dept. review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

HAK:AMH:feg:6/26/69

Best regards.

MORI/CDF
C03356522

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